Panel for restructuring the Ministry of Defence

170. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set up a panel a few months back consisting of representatives of senior bureaucrats and members of the services, to suggest measures for restructuring the working of the Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the immediate compulsions for setting up the panel;

(c) whether the said panel has since submitted its report; if so, its major recommendation; and

(d) if not, by when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) While no such panel was set up, certain measures having a bearing on the reorganisation of the Ministry of Defence have been initiated.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Activities of Chinese and ISI agents on Indo-Nepal Border

171. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the growing anti-India activities by Chinese agents and ISI agents on Indo-Nepal borders;

(b) whether these agents, who are fundamentalists, have also easy access to cities in the Gangetic plain;

(c) whether Government propose to tighten security on Indo-Nepal border; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what other measures Government propose to take to counter the threat to national security by such elements?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Government are aware of the activities of certain agencies inimical to India's interests on the India-Nepal border. In particular, the Inter Services Intelligence of Pakistan has been using Nepalese Territory as a staging/transit point for coordinating and launching terrorist acts in various parts of India. Pak ISI agents along the Indo-Nepal Border are also involved in the recruitment of Muslim youths and in providing them training, arms and explosives. From the recently detected terrorist modules it has been seen that Pak ISI agents have been able to infiltrate into the country for carrying out their nefarious activities under the cover of being Indian nationals.

Diplomatic efforts are being made with Nepal to discourage the activities of certain agencies inimical to India's interests on the India-Nepal border. A High-level dialogue to address our security concerns is in progress. We have been assured at the highest levels in Nepal that their terrirtory will not be misutilised for activities inimical to India's interest. Suitable mechanism have also been evolved to prevent misuse of the open border between the two countries.

The Central Government and the State Governments concerned have also taken steps to enhance vigilance on the border to check the activities of undersirable elements and militants. All Central and State Agencies have been instructed to step up enforcement in a coordinated manner. The concerned State Governments have also been advised to evolve an Action Plan to strengthen policing along India-Nepal border.

रक्षा सचिव की रूस-यात्रा का रद्द किया जाना

172. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल** :क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने रक्षा सचिव की रूस की सरकारी यात्रा रद्द कर दी हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं,

(ग) इस निर्णय के प्रति रूस सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हैं, और

(घ) रक्षा सचिव की रूस यात्रा किस प्रयोजनार्थ निर्धारित की गई थी

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

News-item on IAF

173. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item published in the Times of India of 2nd February, 1999 under the Caption "The undeserving fly high in IAF: Study"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inhouse Committee on Flight Safety was constituted by Indian Air Force to review the aircraft accidents" incidents and recommend measures to-enhance flight safety in the Indian Air Force. Air Force authorities have reported that the recommendations regarding training and personnel policies have since been implemented adequately.

Setting up of a strategic command and control system

174. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been and are being taken to evolve and set up a strategic command and control system, after establishing India's nuclear weapons capability, as a step towards, creating a credible deterrent against weapons of mass destruction; and

(b) the precise nature and details of the command and control system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) India's nuclear deterrent is predicated on the basic principle of strict political/civilian control. Such control would be exercised through appropriate scientific, technological and military management of the nuclear assets of the country to prevent unauthorised or accidental use.

Violation of Rules in the appointment of Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

175. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Regulation 134 of the Navy Act provides that appointment of all Officers above the Rank of Captain shall be made by Government on the recommendation of the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS);

(b) if so, whether in the recent appointment to the post of Deputy Chief of naval Staff, the said provision was over-looked; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the rule or provision of the Act which was the basis for the deviation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The recommendations made by the Chief of Naval Staff are by definition, recommendations. Appointments are made by the Government. In the case relating to the appointment of Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Government took a decision after considering all aspects.